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Following background on developments in Guatemala brings information Dept Circular 499 up to date:

1. Military Operations: Information available to Department continues to show Guatemalan allegations of "foreign invasion" with bombings and strafings civilian population wildly exaggerated. In ground operations, Castillo Armas forces took control without opposition villages in strip now estimated 5-25 miles deep and 40 miles long inside Guatemalan frontier from vicinities Gualan to Esquipulas. In addition, they may control several towns on railroad between Gualan at upper end of strip and Puerto Barrios, which still reported in Government hands. Castillo Armas has set up headquarters within Guatemala at Esquipulas. His troops are reported mostly farm workers recruited inside Guatemala.

Only known fighting up to this morning was encounter at Gualan which Government troops claim to have won. Information believed reliable states rebel counterattack recaptured heights above town. No confirmation rebels have got as far as Zacapa and Chiquimula, first important towns in frontier. There have still been no significant defections Armed Forces or confirmed uprisings.

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In air operations, unidentified F-47 strafed Shell oil tanks outside Guatemala City June 22, puncturing main tank. Bombing of garrison towns of Zacapa and Chiquimula reported but not confirmed. Apart from President Arbenz' statement Guatemalan Air Force pilot killed in crackup, no confirmation anyone has been killed in this "invasion" by ground or air action though reports from Gualan and other points outside capital difficult to obtain. Guatemalan troop morale reported depressed by rebel air superiority.

Guatemalan plane June 22 dropped three bombs near Copan and Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras, doing no damage. Guatemala has denied bombing.

Re previous Guatemalan charges: Pictures of child allegedly killed in June 19 strafing in Guatemala City's Communist Tribuna Popular and independent El Imparcial June 20 (copies not available) reported to indicate clearly wound not made by 50 mm slug from plane. Mexico still has not delivered formal denial of Guatemalan charge plane with two US fliers crashed at Tapachula after bombing Guatemala, but Mexican Air Force officers have stated to Embassy Mexico orally they have no knowledge such plane.

2. Internal Situation: Guatemalan Government is exploiting emergency powers to arm group drawn from Communist-controlled and Communist-influenced labor unions and political parties. Civilians armed with submachine guns are reported as stopping and searching cars on highways. Complete blackout at night accompanied by careless firing of irresponsible police and possibly civilians. This real source of danger to civilian population thus comes more from Government's own actions than from rebel activities.

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Government meanwhile has attempted to feed world exclusively its own warped version developments by preventing US and possibly other newsmen from filing from Guatemala City. Country cut off from other means communications by suspension air service, step taken by airlines themselves.

3. International Action: Guatemala has requested Security Council take further measures, alleging non-observance French resolution adopted June 20 calling for immediate termination any action likely cause bloodshed. Council scheduled meet June 25. Meanwhile Honduras and Nicaragua have asked Inter-American Peace Committee investigate Guatemalan charges involving them and Committee is meeting tonight to consider sending peace commission to area provided Guatemala accepts.

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